GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2137
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2016
Bank Refusal to RTI Information
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have refused to provide any information in reply to 31 percent RTI applicants during the last year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for their denial, bank-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) against the said banks which did not provide required information; and

(d) the further steps taken/instruction issued by the government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(a) to (d): Right to Information is a statutory right given to the citizens of India. All public authorities are obliged to furnish information subject to the provisions of the Right To Information Act, 2005. All Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are covered under the Act.

In terms of Section 19 of the Act, a person can prefer appeal to the designated Appellate Authority if he/she does not receive any reply within the stipulated time or is aggrieved by a decision of the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) of the PSB.

As per the provisions of the Act, penalty can be imposed on the CPIO of the PSB in case he/she, without any reasonable cause, refuse to receive an application for information or has not furnished information within the time specified under the Act or malafidely denied the request for information or knowingly gave incorrect, incomplete or misleading information.
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